



---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, March 17, 2006

***GOVERNOR MEETS WITH MEXICO SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY***  
***Discussions Included Border Security, Law Enforcement Efforts***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today met with Mexico's federal Secretary of Public Safety, Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza, during his visit to Arizona at the request of Mexico's President, Vicente Fox Quesada.

During their meeting, Napolitano and Medina-Mora discussed issues surrounding border security, including efforts to stop human trafficking, narco-trafficking (especially involving methamphetamine) and violent criminal activity along the Arizona-Sonora border. Napolitano has a joint agreement with Sonora to share information on criminal suspects, enhancing both states' abilities to catch and prosecute offenders who are caught on either side of the border.

Napolitano asked Mexico's federal government to support regional strategies designed to enhance security at the U.S. – Mexico border so people can feel safe to travel in the region and to foster lawful commerce between the two countries and border states.

"Law enforcement efforts, done jointly, done with cooperation between our federal and state law enforcement are really imposing the rule of law at the border, and making a dent on criminal activity," said Napolitano.

Medina-Mora expressed his support of efforts between Arizona and Sonora to improve border security.

"This is a shared responsibility, this battle cannot be won only on the state level, on the federal level, municipal level," he said. "We have to get our efforts, resources and determination together to really build up a secure border and solve these problems."

The effective relationship between Arizona and Sonora is long-standing and facilitated through the Governor's Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC). Among the shared continuing initiatives between the two states:

- Information sharing between the two states' law enforcement agencies regarding stolen vehicles. This enables authorities in Sonora to intercept vehicles that are headed south, and return them to their rightful owners in Arizona. Stolen vehicles are often used for the transport of illegal immigrants.
- Enhanced law enforcement presence along the border. That presence allows the massive amount of legal commerce between Arizona and Mexico to flow safely. Further, it allows

safe passage of tourists in border communities, many of which rely heavily on tourism as an economic engine.

- Shared radio channels for enhanced communication between Arizona and Mexican law enforcement.
- Cross-training of Sonoran and Arizona law enforcement personnel to interdict the traffic of fraudulent identification cards and official government documents.

Medina-Mora met earlier today with Arizona law enforcement officials, and is scheduled to meet with legislators and others before returning to Mexico City this afternoon. A copy of his biography is attached.